

**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT**

**REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT: PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
- 28th FEBRUARY, 2023**

**REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER**

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**PRESENT:** Councillor T. Smith (Chair)

Councillors J. Morgan, J.P.  
C. Bainton  
D. Bevan  
J. Holt  
G.A. Davies  
D. Wilkshire  
G. Thomas

**WITH:** Interim Chief Executive  
Corporate Director of Education  
Interim Head of Children's Services  
Head of Adult's Services  
Head of Governance & Partnerships  
Head of School Improvement & Inclusion  
Service Manger Education Transformation & Business Change  
Service Manager Young People & Partnerships  
Strategic Education Improvement Manager  
Press & Publicity Officer  
Scrutiny & Democratic Officer

**AND:** Councillor H. Trollope – Cabinet Member People & Social Services

Mr. Mark Champion ) Estyn  
Mr. Farrukh Khan )

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
No. 1	<p><b><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
No. 2	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were reported for Councillor K. Chaplin and Mr. Tim Baxter.</p>	
No. 3	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></b></p> <p>Councillor D. Wilkshire declared an interim in Item No. 9 - Business Case to purchase 2 properties for use as Residential Children's Homes.</p>	
No. 4	<p><b><u>PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></b></p> <p>The decisions of the People Scrutiny Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 were submitted.</p> <p>It was reported that Councillor J. Holt's apologies had been omitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
No. 5	<p><b><u>ACTION SHEET – PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2023</u></b></p> <p>The Action sheet arising from the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2023, was submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the action sheet be noted.</p>	
No. 6	<p><b><u>BLAENAU GWENT ESTYN LOCAL GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SERVICES (LGES) INSPECTION OUTCOME</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate</p>	

	<p>Director of Education.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted as provided (Option 2).</p>	
<b>No. 7</b>	<p><b><u>BLAENAU GWENT ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR NURSERY AND STATUTORY EDUCATION 2024/25</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Corporate Director of Education / Service Manager Education Transformation and Business Change.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the policy document be accepted (Option 1).</p>	
<b>No. 8</b>	<p><b><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2023</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Scrutiny &amp; Democratic Officer.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the Forward Programme for the meeting 18th April 2023 be noted.</p>	
<b>No. 9</b>	<p><b><u>BUSINESS CASE TO PURCHASE 2 PROPERTIES FOR USE AS RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN’S HOMES</u></b></p> <p>Having regard to the views expressed by the Proper Officer regarding the public interest test, that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the public be excluded whilst this item of business is transacted as it is likely there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).</p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Interim Head of Children’s Services.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report which</p>	

contained information relating to the financial/business affairs of persons other than the Authority be accepted; and the Committee:

- Support the business case for the purchase of 2 properties to be developed into a children's residential home. The identified revenues savings to be built into Bridging the Gap to support the Council's budget pressures in 2024/25 and future years (Part 1 Option 1); and
- Support the purchase of the 2 properties above market value and the use of the capital contingency fund to fund the £65,000 shortfall in capital costs for the purchase (Part 2 Option 1)